



CUMBERLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Working Together to Build a Safer Community"



Anthony J. Silva
Chief of Police

April 2, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT 02-55 Public Safety Radio Interference

Dear Secretary Dortch:

While there are over 15,000 Law Enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada, there are only approximately 450 that are accredited. The Cumberland, Rhode Island Police Department is proud to be one of those that is accredited, a process that serves to distinguish participating organizations as having met professional standards of conduct and service. Our department is committed to upholding excellence in service. Communications is an integral component in our ability to meet this lofty goal.

It is concerning to learn of the struggle so many of my law enforcement colleagues are facing with radio interference. I cannot over-emphasize the potential danger that could arise from unreliable communications. Public safety radio interference needs to be solved comprehensively – and it needs to be done immediately.

The Consensus Plan is the needed answer. By realigning the 800 MHz spectrum, interference will be proactively eliminated. This could be considered enough reason to implement it. But, it also provides additional spectrum to public safety and is fully funded – meaning NO cost will be imposed on public safety agencies or taxpayers.

I understand there are corporate interests involved in the proceeding intent on delaying the Consensus Plan. Fact is, none of their concerns relate to the elimination of interference or meeting public safety's needs. No, what they are concerned about is competitive advantage. Frankly, that shouldn't be considered in this proceeding. Public safety needs a comprehensive solution to interference, additional spectrum and a funding mechanism in place. Only the Consensus Plan provides this.

"A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED AGENCY"

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Please focus on what's truly important here: reliable communications for police and other first responders. Implement the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Silva
Chief of Police

AJS/dml